THE OAK RIDGER

Campers return to school as award winners

Oak Ridger Staff
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As a new school year begins, five local high school students have a great experience to share with their friends.

Hubert Gibson of Oliver Springs High School; Mike Manrod of Knox Catholic High School, Benjamin Petersen of Bearden High School; Emily Simonds of Webb School of Knoxville; and Katie Strader of West High School, will all go back to class award-winners after competing in the International Metallographic Society's poster competition and winning first place in the undergraduate student category and third place in the overall competition.

Thanks to the interest generated at the Y-12 National Security Complex co-sponsored ASM (formerly American Society for Metals) Materials Camp held this summer, these five campers took the initiative to enter the competition after camp was completed.

With some help from their Y-12 mentors, material scientist Jaret Frafjord and interns Elena Garlea and Rob Panaro, the students created a poster showing what they and the 17 other campers learned in camp. Their camp experience was like none other; they had the unique opportunity to examine debris from space shuttle Columbia and used analytical tools like the large-chamber scanning electron microscope to study material microstructure and elemental characterization.

"It was fun working with the students and great to see them excited to work with the shuttle debris and high-tech equipment. The goal of the camp was to get students interested in materials science, and we definitely accomplished that goal," Frafjord said.

In addition to plaques, the students will receive a small monetary prize as well.

Steve Dekanich of Y-12 Quality Assurance, one of the co-chairs of the camp, said, "The University of Tennessee, another camp sponsor, is considering offering the five students a fellowship."

"Next year's camp will be even more exciting, and there is an excellent possibility that we'll have an astronaut attend the camp. We're working the possibility of incorporating high temperature microscopy into the program so the students can see real time what happens to the material at elevated temperatures," Dekanich said.